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Microbial Genetics Laboratory
Genetics Building

February 10, 1958

Dr. Krafft A. Ehrlicke
Convair-Astronautics Division
San Diego, California

Dear Dr. Ehrlicke:

I am writing to ask whether you could favor me with reprints of certain of your publications which I have been able to examine briefly, and would like the opportunity of having at hand for closer study.

They are, first of all, the AFS report on a national space flight program, which appeared in *Astronautics*, as did another of your articles on the anthropology of space travel.

If you can spare reprints, I would also appreciate having your calculations on 'The satelloid', and on the 'Ascent of orbital vehicles', which appeared in *Astronautica Acta*, 2:63-100, and 175-190 respectively.

I have been rather disturbed that so few of my colleagues have awakened to the implications for basic biological science of the rapidly approaching era of space travel, or to say the least of lunar probes. A great deal has been done and written, to be sure, on the physiology of man in space but biologists themselves have contributed very little to the discussion of extra-terrestrial forms of life, and now we may be approaching the point of doing something about it! In fact, I rather fear that a lack of interdisciplinary communication may frustrate one of the really important opportunities which may arise from contact with the moon, the subject of the enclosed memorandum. It is, unhappily, symptomatic of this that the topic was not even skirted in your committee's report, notwithstanding that it would have tried to find every reasonable justification for the cost of such a program.

The subject of the memorandum is being taken up in biological circles, and (I hope) by the National Academy of Sciences, but it is hardly too soon (I hope not too late!) to try to communicate with informed enthusiasts on the technical side of the fence. However, I would hope that it not be given too much popular publicity until my scientific colleagues have had a chance to think about it.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Chairman, Department of
Medical Genetics